

I am a musician, recording artist, media consumer, and might soon be on-air talent for a community radio station. Local, independently-owned media are essential to both my professional and personal life.

I have released one demo and one full-length album, with another planned for winter 2005. I run my own independent label. I perform locally several times a month, and have been on three national tours. (U.S. and Canada.) I have hundreds of people on my mailing list, roughly one quarter of whom are in my local community.

I have contacted local stations and sent CDs for airplay. I have done in-studio performances at many area college radio stations. I mostly hear my music on college, low-power, and non-commercial radio. Some local stations (college & The River 93.9) have niche shows which feature local talent. I believe my songs are sometimes played because of their overtly political content, and mostly not played for the same reason. The River and college stations often play local popular artists. The other stations very rarely serve the local music community.

The people in the community who own the public airwaves should decide what is "local programming." The FCC's role should be ensuring that those voices are heard and heeded. Local DJs with the power to make programming decisions, instead of pre-approved corporate regional/national playlists, are a big part of this process.

Whatever is of interest to the community, including and especially news, public affairs, and music. Stories and art that are not available in national media are most important to expose on a local level.

Non-programming goodwill events or sponsorship should be lauded, but not counted towards the localism requirement.

The example of payola that I am most aware of is major labels buying tons of late-night time at commercial rates to play their musicians' hits over & over to jack up ratings.

I would say that free concerts for radio stations should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. It depends on both the artist and the station, as well as other circumstances.

Payment for front & back announcing is absurd. DJs should let people know what they're hearing without labels/artists having to pay for it.

Voicetracking is dishonest, and inconsistent with a broadcaster's obligations to serve the local interest. Broadcasts that mislead the public about where the broadcaster is located should be illegal.

National playlists have a tremendous effect on many local stations, and local music communities suffer greatly for it. ALL programming decisions should be made at the local level, as much as possible by individual DJs and those in the listening public. Stations should be required or at least strongly encouraged to play a certain percentage of local content... 30- 50% would be a good place to start.

LPFM stations are wonderful, and there should be one in every community. I'd like to see more low power licenses available, especially in more populated areas. LPFM stations can and do benefit the music community by airing news and diverse local artists that otherwise often go unnoticed & unreported by bigger stations.

Thank you for addressing this most important issue with a public proceeding.